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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00

NSC-05 EUR-12 IO-10 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SCCT-01 /077 R

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S/S-MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TOSEC 106

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ALLON APPEARANCE ON TODAY SHOW DEC. 12

SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM
SHERMAN

SUMMARY: ALLON ONCE AGAIN CAST STRONG DOUBT THAT ANY
MOVEMENT ON NEGOTIATING FRONT CAN TAKE PLACE BEFORE
BREZHNEV'S JANUARY VISIT TO CAIRO. HE REPEATED THAT
ISRAEL WILL NOT NEGOTIATE UNDER PRESSURE. ON NON-
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BELLIGERENCY, HE SAID THE UNITED STATES CAN RELATE TO THE

ARAB STATES THAT ISRAEL IS READY TO NEGOTIATE EITHER AN OVERALL AGREEMENT OR A STEP-BY-STEP AGREEMENT WHICH "WILL AT LEAST ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR A GOOD NUMBER OF YEARS." HE SAID HIS VISIT HERE WAS A "PRELIMINARY EXPLORATION", AND ISRAEL IS AWAITING A REPLY AS TO WHETHER "SOONER OR LATER" THERE IS ANYONE TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL AFTER THE RABAT SUMMIT AND THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE. HE REPEATED FIRM ISRAELI OPPOSITION TO DEALING WITH THE PLO, SAID THE UNITED STATES HAD ASSURED HIM OF NO CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY AGAINST DEALING WITH THE PLO, AND DISPUTED ASSESSMENTS THAT THIS STALEMATE MAKES WAR INEVITABLE.

HE NOTED THAT THE VLADIVOSTOK COMMUNIQUE OF PRESIDENT FORD AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV HAD SPOKEN OF THE "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS" OF THE PALESTINIANS, NOT "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS," AND SAID THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY CAN EXPRESS ITS IDENTITY "WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PEACE WITH OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST." END SUMMARY

FOLLOWING, IN ORDER, ARE THE ANSWERS GIVEN BY ALLON TO QUESTIONS BY BARBARA WALTERS AND JIM HARTZ IN A 15-MINUTE INTERVIEW ON THE TODAY SHOW, NBC:

1. DURING HIS TALKS HERE, HE WAS ASSURED THAT NO CHANGE HAS OCCURRED IN UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD THE PLO-- NO CHANGE TOWARD DEALING WITH THE PLO.
2. THERE HAS BEEN NO HINT OF U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO CHANGE ITS POLICY ON THE PLO, AND HE HAD SAID, WITHOUT BEING ASKED, THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO.
3. IT WAS NOT HIS IMPRESSION THAT THIS STALEMATE OVER THE PLO WOULD LEAD INEVITABLY TO WAR WITHIN 6 MONTHS. ISRAEL IS DEALING WITH SOVEREIGN STATES, NOT ORGANIZATIONS. EACH STATE CAN NEGOTIATE FOR ITSELF. THOUGH THE ARAB STATES MAY HAVE SOLIDARITY WITHIN THEIR OVERALL ORGANIZATION, THEY CANNOT DICTATE TO ISRAEL WITH WHOM IT IS TO NEGOTIATE.

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4. IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE "INFAMOUS" UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION AND THE "DISASTROUS" DECISION AT THE RABAT SUMMIT, WE MIGHT NOW BE IN THE MIDDLE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A SECOND STEP TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT.
5. ISRAEL REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO, WHOSE COVENANT CALLS FOR THE ANNIHILATION OF ISRAEL. THE PLO SHOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION

MOVEMENTS WHO RIGHTLY FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM IN AFRICA AND ASIA FROM THE BRITISH, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE, ETC. THOSE MOVEMENTS DID NOT SEEK TO DESTROY THE STATES AGAINST WHOM THEY FOUGHT, WHILE THE PLO WANTS TO DESTROY ISRAEL.

6. IF ISRAEL WERE TO DEAL WITH THE PLO SIMPLY BECAUSE THE PLO SAID IT WOULD RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, "THAT WOULD BE LIKE RIDING A TIGER BECAUSE IT IS DISGUISED AS A HORSE." THE PLO CANNOT CHANGE--ARAFAT HAD A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY IN HIS SPEECH IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT HE COULD NOT HELP HIMSELF.

7. IF THE PLO WERE TO CHANGE ON THE QUESTION OF THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, IT WOULD CEASE TO BE THE PLO.

ANNIHILATION OF ISRAEL IS WHAT HOLDS THE SPLINTER ORGANIZATIONS TOGETHER.

8. THE TALKS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER WERE A PRELIMINARY EXPLORATION, RATHER THAN FOR ANY DECISIONS. NO ONE KNOWS IF, AFTER RABAT AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THERE ARE CANDIDATES TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL. WE ARE EXPECTING A REPLY, WHETHER SOONER OR LATER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH ANY ONE OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

9. ASKED ABOUT ISRAELI PREFERENCE TO PROCEED WITH EGYPT, HE SAID ISRAEL WOULD PREFER AN OVERALL PEACE AGREEMENT WITH EACH OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. IF EGYPT WOULD HAVE BEEN AS FORTHCOMING AS WE CAN BE, THEN WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MUCH FURTHER NOW TOWARD PROGRESS IN THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD (HIS PHRASEOLOGY).
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10. RABIN HAD ALREADY EXPLAINED IN THE KNESSET HIS REMARKS TO HA'ARETZ ON THE SUBJECT OF NON-BELLIGERENCY. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE POLICY OF ISRAEL. ANY AGREEMENT SHOULD PUT AN END TO ACTS OF BELLIGERENCY, TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THIS WILL REALLY CREATE A NEW SITUATION IN THE AREA WHICH LIES BETWEEN US AND OUR NEIGHBORS.

11. ASKED WHETHER ISRAEL WANTS A PACT OF NON-BELLIGERENCY BEFORE AGREEING TO FURTHER WITHDRAWALS IN SINAI, HE SAID HE DID NOT GET INTO SUCH DETAILS DURING TALKS WITH KISSINGER. THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID, CAN TELL OUR ARAB NEIGHBORS THAT ISRAEL IS WELL DISPOSED TO NEGOTIATE EITHER AN OVERALL AGREEMENT OR STEP-BY-STEP AGREEMENTS

WHICH WILL HELP TOWARD PEACE OR AT LEAST TO ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR A GOOD NUMBER OF YEARS.

12. REGARDING BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO CAIRO, HE SAID ISRAEL IS NOT DECIDING STEPS ACCORDING TO BREZHNEV'S TRAVEL PLANS. ALLON SAID HE HAD MADE CLEAR TO ALL HIS LISTENERS HERE THAT NO COUNTRY SHOULD NEGOTIATE UNDER PRESSURE. WHERE THERE IS SUCH PRESSURE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE. ANYHOW, UNTIL WE MOVE HERE AND THERE, BREZHNEV WILL BE SAFELY BACK IN MOSCOW. (HIS EXACT WORDS). ONCE HE IS OUT, THE ARABS WILL HAVE TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS IF THEY ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE--IF THEY ARE READY, WHEN, AND ON WHAT. THAT IS THE LOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITIES.

13. ASKED IF THE RUSSIANS ARE KEY TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ALLON REPLIED HE HOPED THE ARABS ARE STILL SOVEREIGN IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. IF THE ARABS REACH THE POINT WHERE THEY LET THE RUSSIANS DICTATE THEIR FOREIGN POLICY, I AM AFRAID TO SAY THAT MAYBE THE RUSSIANS CANNOT HELP ACHIEVE PEACE. THEY CAN DAMAGE ANY POSSIBILITY OF PEACE BY ADOPTING, AS THEY HAVE, A ONE-SIDED ANTI-ISRAELI POLICY.

14. THE VLADIVOSTOK COMMUNIQUE DID NOT SPEAK OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"LEGITIMATE RIGHTS' OF THE PALESTINIANS. IT SPOKE OF "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS." NO ONE SHOULD IDENTIFY THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY WITH TERRORISM, WITH THE PLO. THAT COMMUNITY DESERVES TO EXPRESS ITS IDENTITY IN THE CONTEXT OF PEACE WITH OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST (JORDAN).

COMMENT: AS WITH THE OVERSEAS WRITERS YESTERDAY, ALLON TODAY CONTINUED TO STEER CLEAR OF HEADLINES. HE REFUSED TO GO INTO SPECIFICS OF HIS TALKS HERE. QUESTIONS OF THE PLO DOMINATED THE FIRST HALF OF THE INTERVIEW, AND HE EMPHASIZED ADAMANT ISRAELI REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH THE PLO. ON THE NEGOTIATING FRONT, HE COMBINED AN IMAGE OF REASONABLENESS WITH REPETITION OF ISRAELI REFUSAL TO BE STAMPEDED INTO HASTY NEGOTIATIONS BY BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO CAIRO. INGERSOLL

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